

# News from Ed Markey

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## **BUSH ADMINISTRATION FLIP-FLOPS ON IAEA INSPECTIONS**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a Senior Member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, released the following statement on President Bush's announcement that Libya would immediately dismantle all weapons of mass destruction programs under international supervision:

Rep. Markey said, "Libya's agreement to dismantle its weapons of mass destruction programs, if carried out in good faith and aggressively verified, is a welcome development demonstrating a new willingness to conform to international standards of civilized behavior. I welcome the President's decision to rely on International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections to ensure that Muhamar Qadaffi lives up to this new agreement.

Rep. Markey continued, "However, this is difficult to reconcile with the Administration's previous ridicule of IAEA inspectors in Iraq. President Bush started a war in Iraq on the grounds that, according to his Administration, the anytime-anywhere IAEA inspection process was a joke. For example, Vice President Cheney told Meet The Press on March 16, on the eve of the war in Iraq, 'we believe he [Saddam] has, in fact, reconstituted nuclear weapons. I think that Mr. El-Baradei frankly is wrong. And I think if you look at the track record of the International Atomic Energy Agency and this kind of issue, especially where Iraq's concerned, they have consistently underestimated or missed what it was Saddam Hussein was doing. I don't have any reason to believe they're any more valid this time than they've been in the past.'

"American soldiers are now dying daily in Iraq because the United States deemed the IAEA's search for weapons of mass destruction to be totally unworthy of support. Now, suddenly, President Bush is leaning on the same anytime-anywhere IAEA inspections to police Libya. The fact that no weapons of mass destruction have been found in Iraq has certainly vindicated the IAEA in the eyes of the world. Perhaps the President is now admitting, without saying so, that he was wrong about the IAEA's ability to conduct effective weapons inspections. Why else would he rely on these inspectors now?" Rep. Markey asked.

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